

Probe on UiTM lecturers, students' Al-Arqam link

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KUALA LUMPUR: An investigation will be carried out immediately to determine whether Universiti Teknologi Mara lecturers or students are involved with the Al-Arqam movement, its vice-chancellor said yesterday.

However, Professor Datuk Seri Dr Ibrahim Abu Shah said little has so far been found to link students or faculty members to the banned cult.

Yesterday, the *New Straits Times* reported on former Arqam member Zabidi Mohammed's claims that there were many UiTM students who continued to follow the deviant teachings of former Al-Arqam leader Ashaari

Muhammad.

He claimed the teachings had a new name — Mawaddah.

Zabidi also urged the religious authorities to take action against certain lecturers whom he said were spreading the teachings.

Ibrahim said his investigations revealed no proof of the students' or lecturers' involvement.

"I strongly deny these claims. There is no physical proof, whether in clothing or behaviour that would indicate their involvement.

In our initial investigations, there were no campuses known to have connections

with the movement. This is also the first time UiTM has heard about it."

He added that UiTM would still fully investigate the claims.

"Circulars will be sent to every campus director and department head to conduct investigations and report whether there are individuals involved."

He said that if they were found to be involved, action could be taken, ranging from warnings to expulsions.

Ibrahim also asked for Zabidi to step forward to prove his claims.

He asked for proof of the allegations.